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Date

Mr. Dave Davis President and General Manager WABC-TV 7 Lincolnn Square

New York, New York 10023

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Plainfield councilman's alleged scuffle with officers still under investigation

By CHAD WEIHRAUCH Staff Writer

PLAINFIELD - A city councilman who alleges he was manhandled by police said Wednesday he still is awaiting the results of an internal investigation into the incident.

dricks, who was handcuffed and custody with unnecessary force, pepper-sprayed Nov. 16 after first handcuffed and then pepcity police stopped his per-sprayed. 16-year-old son for riding a motorized scooter in the street. said officers have interviewed with obstructing and resisting neighbors to ask what they saw arrest, which rarely carry a that evening.

"I'm waiting for the findings of that investigation," he said. "To confirmed police have spoken my understanding, they said they did go out and survey the area."

Hendricks has said Sgt. Michael Waldron stopped his son, Christopher, who was riding the scooter near the family's West Sixth Street home, and told the teen it is illegal to operate the vehicle in the street. When Hendricks attempted to Councilman Albert Hen- stop, he said, he was taken into

The councilman has been charged with interfering and prison sentence.

Police Chief Edward Santiago to potential witnesses but said no trial date has been set.

"I'm waiting for the findings of that investigation. To my understanding, they (police) said they did go out and survey the area."

> ALBERT HENDRICKS, Plainfield councilman

"We're basically on hold until ask Waldron about the traffic that takes place," he said. adding there probably would be a change of venue to send the proceedings to a neighboring municipality because of the community ties Waldron and Hendricks have.

Any decision on disciplinary action against Waldron or the other three officers who responded is dependent on the outcome of the trial, Santiago said.

"Unless it's something really, really heinous or criminal in nature, but in this case here, we do have statements from people, and we don't act on those statements ... until after what happens in court," he said.

Hendricks said the laws on motorized scooters remain unclear to him but pointed to a pending Assembly bill, A2602, that he said attempts to finetune regulations. The bill reads in part, "No person shall operate a motorized scooter or motorized skateboard upon any public street, highway or sidewalk."

However, at the time of the mid-November incident, Santiago offered a state Division of Motor Vehicles memo stating so-called "Go-Peds" do not meet the definition of a motorcycle under state law, and therefore are "restricted to use on private property, provided the owner of the property



An internal investigation ov Councilman Albert Hendric arrest is still under way, he consented to such use."

Chad Weihrauch cai reached at (908) 707or cweihrau@gannett Mr. Dave Davis
President and General Manager
WABC-TV
7 Lincolnn Square

New York, New York 10023

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"Like It Is," with its award winning host and producer Gil Noble, has served the American public for the past 34 years with timely and critical analysis of the political, economic and cultural issues that shape our lives. Serving the mandate of the Kerner Commission, which called upon the media to provide greater representation of people of color and the various issues and viewpoints that make up this country's ethnic diversity, "Like It Is" has offered a unique and most needed opportunity for people to examine current affairs through an African American perspective. To date it is the longest running African American produced television program in the US and has produced the largest body of programs and documentaries on Black Americans.

Today many of the gains that people of color have made in media broadcasting are being reversed. Racial diversity in media ownership and representation in the news rooms is in decline. The fact that "Like It Is" is one of the only regularly scheduled Black programs produced at WABC-TV, coupled with your station's decision to first try to eliminate the program and then to slash the time format, reflects this dangerous and disturbing trend.

Again, I call upon you to return "Like It Is" to its original hour format. I am very aware that Disney owns ABC. While I will always support this program, if this reasonable request is not granted, I will find other ways to express my displeasure via my network viewing habits and my purchasing power. And I will encourage others to do the same. There are many ways in which my community can register its displeasure pertaining to your insensitivity to the audience that "Like It Is" serves.

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Address 540 W 5Th ST	P/FD-NJ
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Date

BOYCOTT ALL WABC AND DISNEY PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCTS, EXCEPT FOR "LIKE IT IS"

As an avid viewer and strong supporter of "Like It Is", I am outraged by your continuous pre-emptions, interruptions and scaling back of the show's hour format, in spite of the tremendous outpouring of written requests and protests by the community for WABC-TV and its parent company, Disney, to commit to a one hour time slot for "Like It Is" without interruption. WABC-TV and Disney's treatment of the show can only be viewed as a deliberate plot to sabotage one of the most progressive and socially significant programs on the air.

Furthermore, I am aware of the hundreds of positive letters in support of the show on file at the station. Even more importantly, I am aware that the letters of support for "Like It Is" with Gil Noble far out weigh the amount of viewer mail received for any other show produced at WABC-TV in New York, including your news programs. From the letters that you have on file, dating back to 2002, Gil Noble, bar none, is the station's most respected and popular journalist and on air personality. At least 95% of the viewer mail on file is for "Like It Is" which is a strong testament to the journalistic integrity of the show's host and the relevance of its programming. No other program produced by your station in New York generates 1/10th of the community enthusiasm that "Like It Is" does. Moreover, as producer of the show, Gil Noble has an illustrious 37 year track record, receiving numerous industry awards, including 7 emmys, over 650 community awards. Needless to say, if this were any other show, you would be heralding the success of its host/producer and lauding the show as one of ABC's flagship programs. Instead, you do everything to undermine the significance of the show.

Your mistreatment of "Like It Is" coupled with the WABC and Disney's dearth of programming diversity, especially when it comes to educational programming for people of color, underscores the racism and disdain that this network has for its diverse viewership, especially the African American community. Therefore since this station does not support the type of news and public affairs programs that matter to me, I am not supporting the news programs that matter to you all. Except for "Like It Is", I AM BOYCOTTING ALL WABC-TV AND DISNEY PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCTS! Hence I am glad to participate in this boycott, especially since I find your other news programs to be extremely biased in its reporting on issues pertaining to ethnic communities.

I remind you that we the people own these airwaves and that as a broadcaster you are mandated by the FCC to be responsive to the communities that you service in exchange for free use of the public airwaves. You have violated your mandate of public service to the African American community, as well as to other communities of color.

Name (please print and sign)

Address: A Rama Rama by Market Company of the compa

100 Asch Loop Branx NY 10475

cc Michael J. Hopps – Commissioner of FCC

Kevin J. Martin - Chairman of FCC

Anne M. Sweeney – Co-Chair Disney Media Networks Melvin L. Watt – Chair of Congressional Black Caucus